

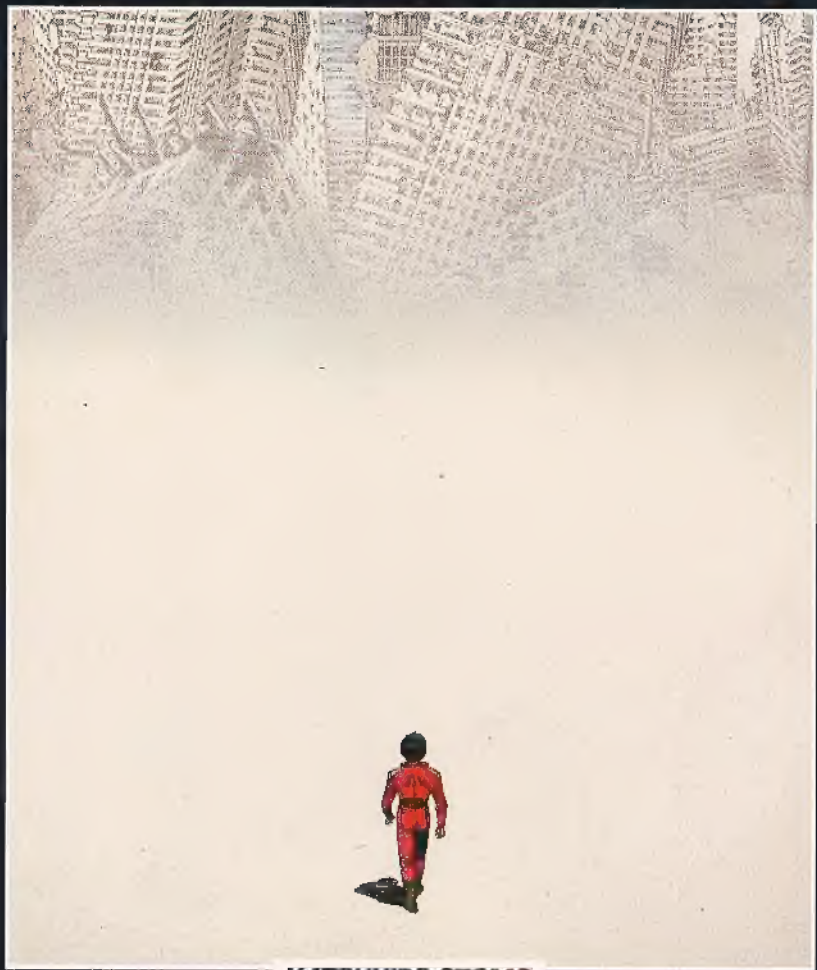
AKIRA

38

TM



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KATSUHIRO OTOMO



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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 38

THE FINAL CHAPTER

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

2030. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kaneda**, onetime leader of a delinquent gang, is caught up in the aftermath of a power struggle between a Japanese military research organization — led by a man known only as the **Colonel** — and a resistance group whose members included **Kay**, **Ryu**, and a formidable woman named **Chiyoko**.

The Colonel had a number of psychic children under his control. Each one was identified by a number tattooed on the hand. Among them were **Kiyoko** and **Masaru** — Numbers 25 and 27. The blind **Lady Miyako** — Number 19 — now heads a great religious cult. Number 41 is **Tetsuo**, who lost his left arm to a laser blast from the Colonel's military satellite **SOL**, and has used cybernetics and telekinesis to fabricate a prosthetic replacement. **Tetsuo** was Kaneda's dearest friend until he used his burgeoning powers to slaughter other members of their gang. Now, **Kaneda** is out for revenge.

Most powerful of all the children is Number 28 — **Akira**. Almost forty years ago he started the Third World War with a mental blast. He has since been in a cryogenic sleep. **Akira** was recently reawakened by **Tetsuo**, and again he devastated the reconstructed city of Neo-Tokyo. Japan now exists in a state of

emergency, with the army and the members of the resistance scattered throughout.

In the western part of Neo-Tokyo, the **Great Tokyo Empire** is formed — a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his prime minister. To the east, **Lady Miyako** welcomes refugees to her shrine. In this, she is aided by **Kiyoko**, **Masaru**, and a number of loyal psychic monks.

The **Empire** is infiltrated by teams of spies and commando units from the outside world, equipped with biochemical armaments which take a tremendous toll on **Tetsuo's** forces.

A fleet of foreign ships waits in Tokyo Bay, poised for action. Aboard an American naval vessel, an international conclave of scientists and one Tibetan monk study the **Akira** phenomenon — which they've codenamed **Juvenile A**. One of the scientists — **Stanley Simmons** — goes ashore to implement a secret plan. The research team is certain that using military force against **Akira** and **Tetsuo** can only lead to disaster. When the fleet sends fighter planes against **Tetsuo**, he sinks their flagship, forcing the survivors to flee.

Meanwhile, **Kay** joins **Miyako's** forces in battle against **Tetsuo**, because **Kay** is a powerful medium, through

whom the others can project their powers and strike as one.

Kaneda teams up with **Kai** and **Joker** — a friend and rival from his gang days. Using salvaged weapons the trio lead a ragtag force to help **Kay** battle **Tetsuo**. As they fight, **Akira** looks placidly on, drawn by the similarity of Tetsuo's powers to his own.

Tetsuo is griefstricken over the death of his gentle girlfriend, **Kaori**. He carries her body to the underground chamber where **Akira** once slept. **Akira** follows and is joined by **Kaneda**, **Joker**, **Chiyoko** and **Ryu**. They prepare to fight in the bowels of the earth, where many of their comrades died.

Tetsuo's powers have grown erratic. His body frequently bloats and expands, engulfing those who venture too close. For a moment, it seems that contact with **Kaneda** has restored Tetsuo's humanity. Then, Tetsuo's power comes surging back and **Kaneda** is drawn into his monstrous form, apparently consumed. As the battle rages, **Akira** becomes more alert. Terrified at what might occur if **Akira** awakens fully, **Ryu** panics. He draws a gun and shoots **Akira**, setting the boy's power free.

Seeking a new power source for himself, **Tetsuo** flies to Lady Miyako's shrine. **Kay** follows in hot pursuit. **Lady Miyako** instructs **Kiyoko** and **Masaru** to look after **Akira**, and the pair teleport away to help their friend. **Lady Miyako**, her followers, and **Kay**

prepare to make a final stand against **Tetsuo**.

Kiyoko and **Masaru** meet **Akira** on the psychic plane. They are joined by the spirits of all the gifted children who have died before.

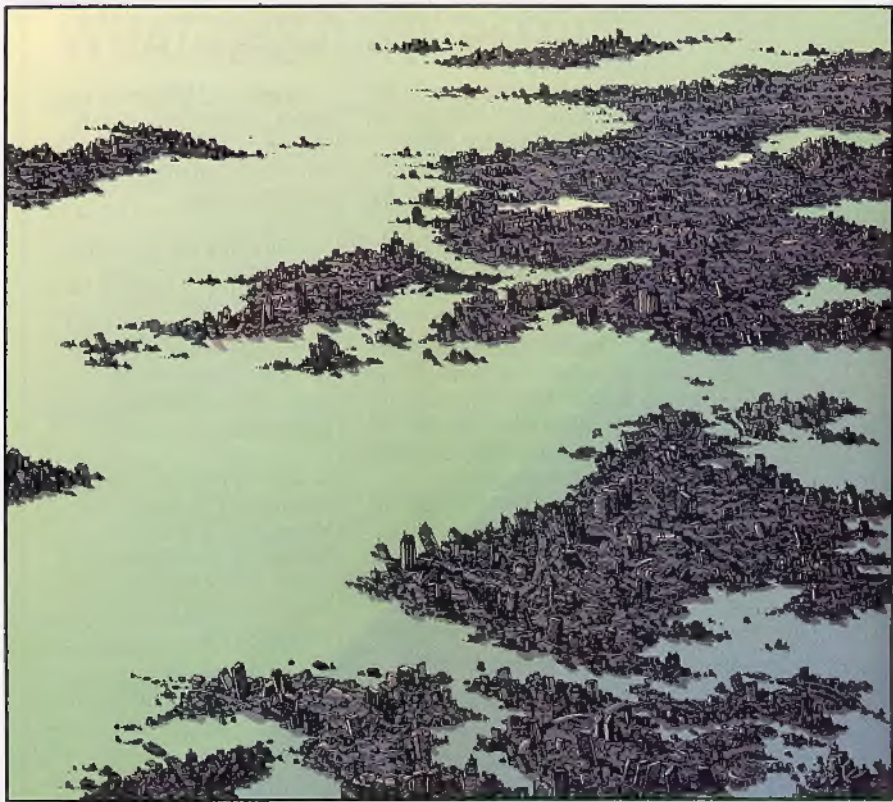
Telling **Kay** that the resolution depends on her, **Lady Miyako** heroically draws **Tetsuo** to herself and is killed. As she dies, she, too, is drawn to the spirit plane, where the souls of friends who have gone before await.

Kay is guided in battle by her late mentor's commands, and is able to break through to **Tetsuo**. His concentration interrupted, he is vulnerable, and is himself consumed by the force of **Akira**'s mind.

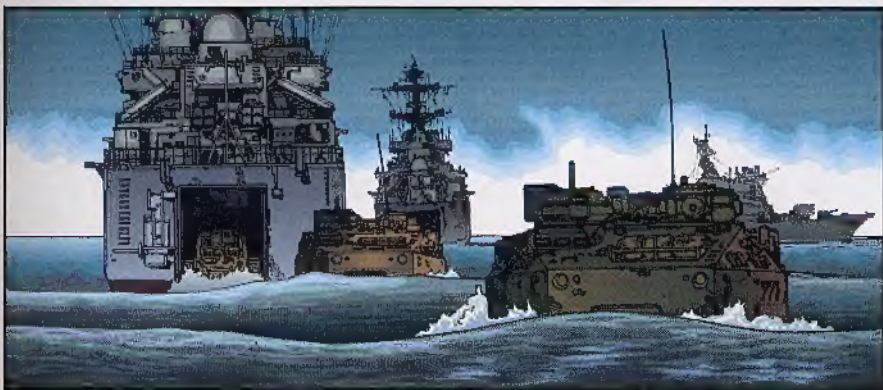
Trapped within Tetsuo's soul, **Kaneda** experiences a fractured, kaleidoscopic journey through his late friend's life and hardships. He shares with **Tetsuo** both the good memories and the bad.

Kaneda is contacted by Lady Miyako's spirit, and is stunned by what she tells him. Although **Tetsuo** and **Akira** were created in laboratories, they, along with all the catastrophe they bring, are a vital part of mankind's evolution. All this madness has been part of a greater cosmic good.

As Tetsuo's spirit joins the others on a higher plane, **Kaneda** is guided back to reality, sanity and safety by friends who still need him in the world he left behind.

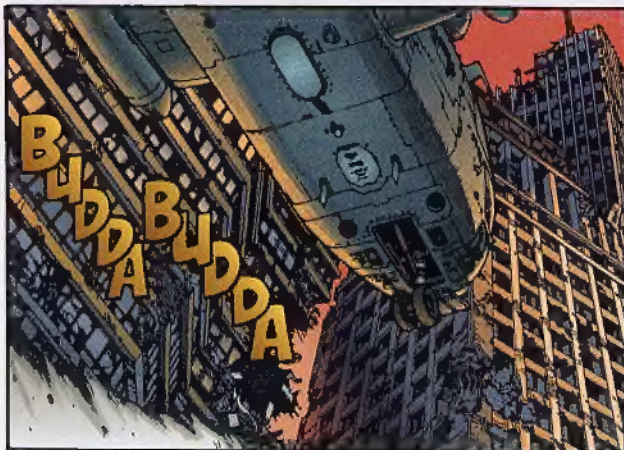
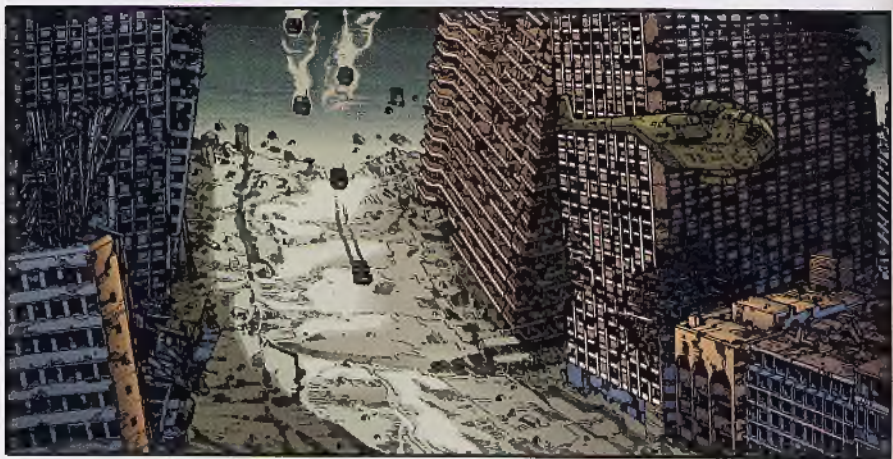
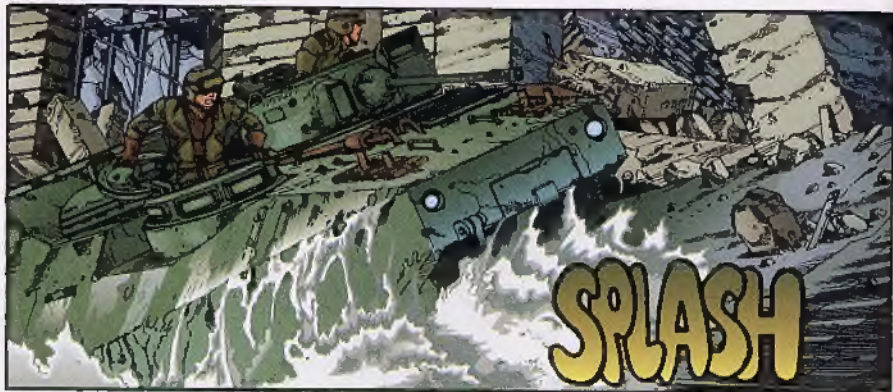


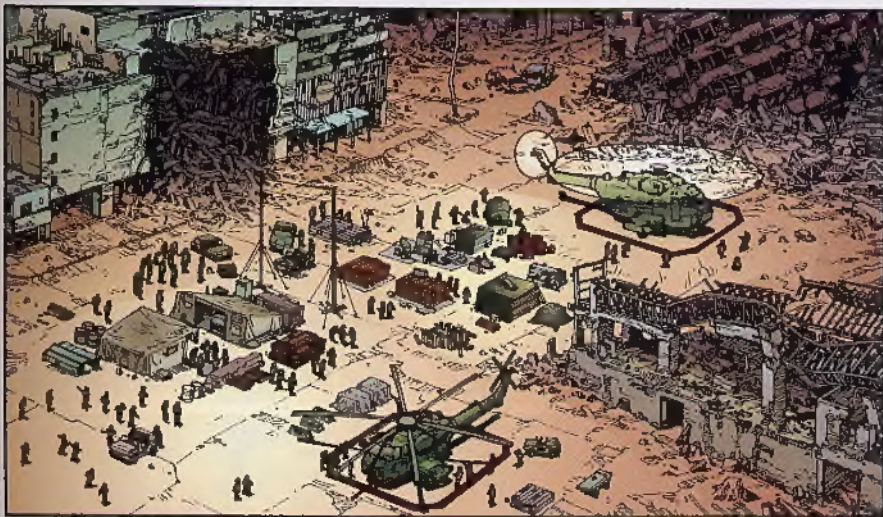
KLANK
KLANK

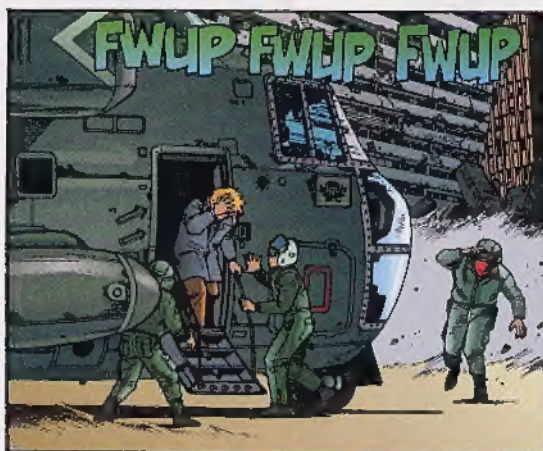


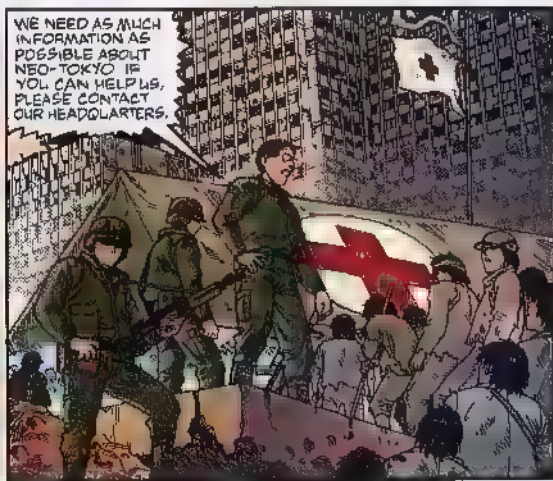
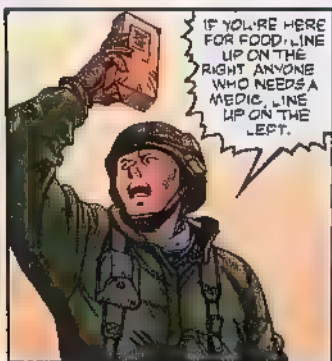
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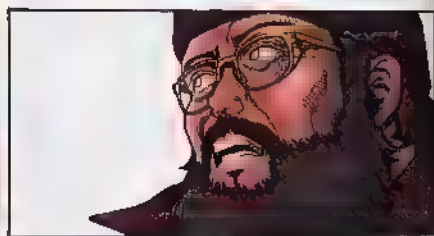
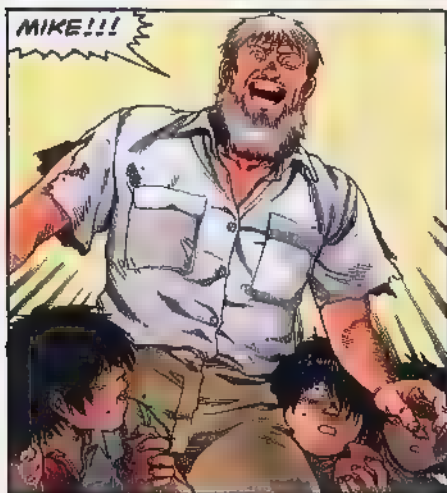
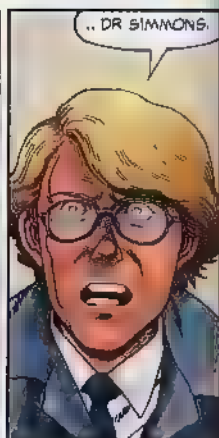
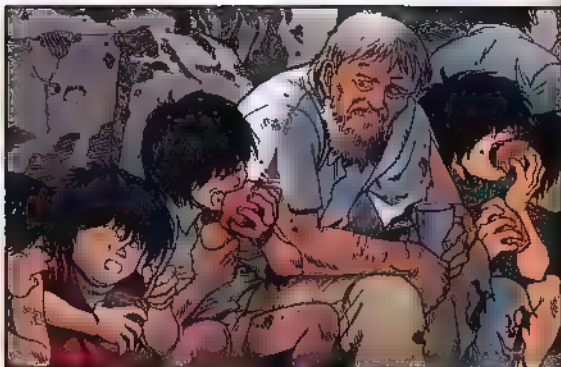


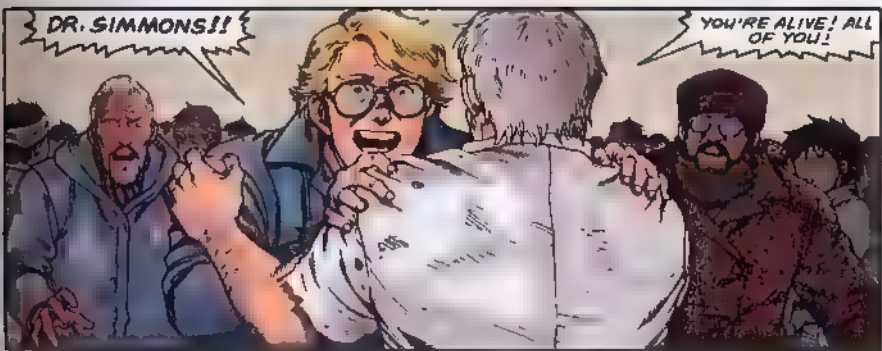
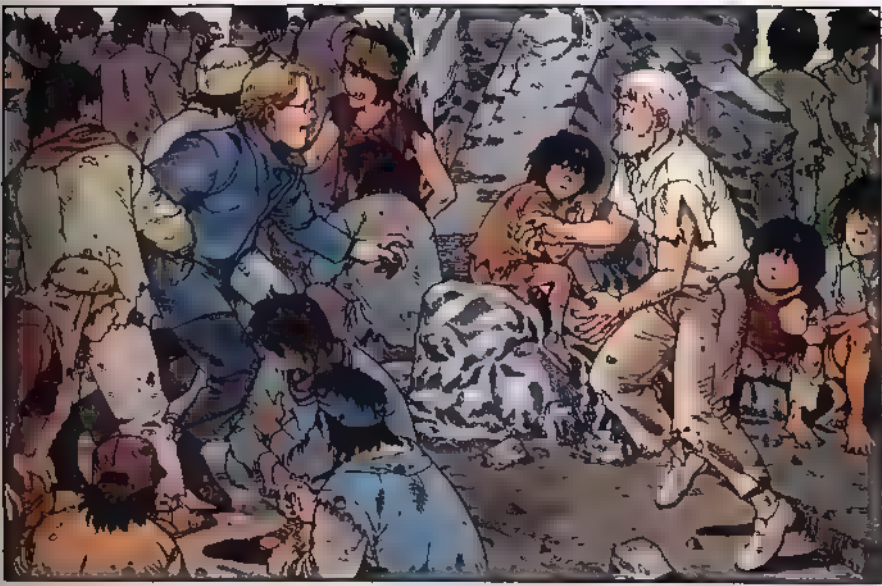


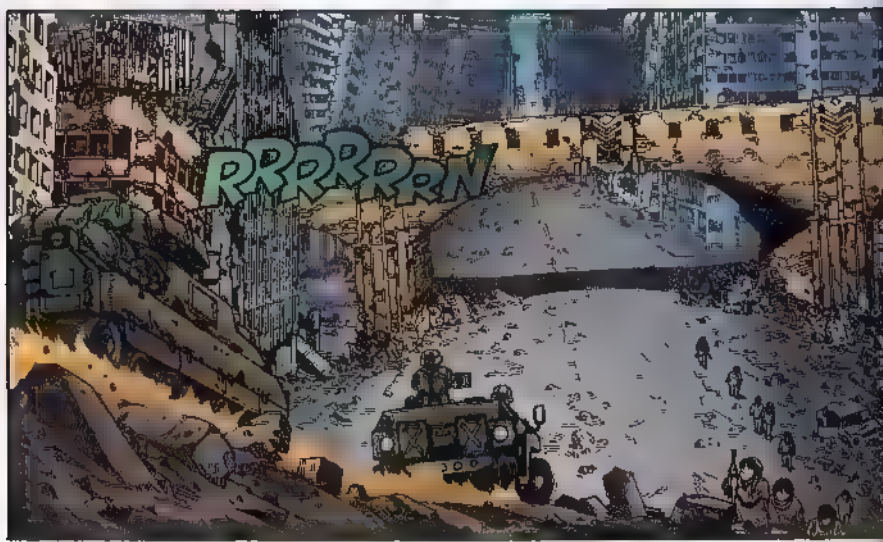
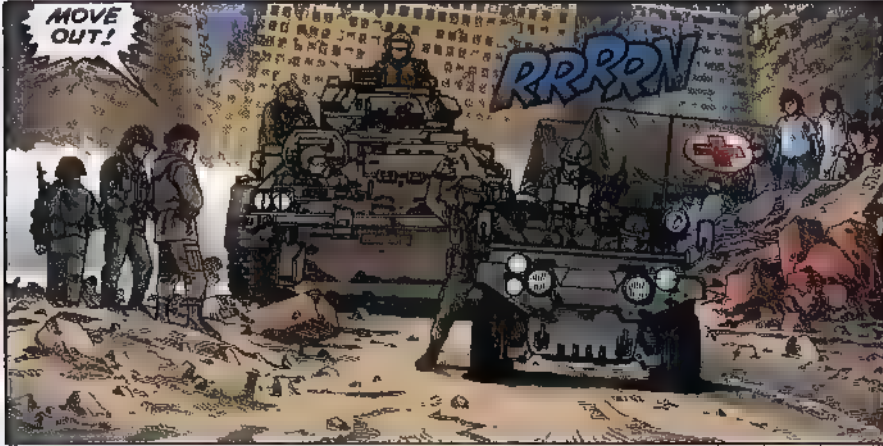


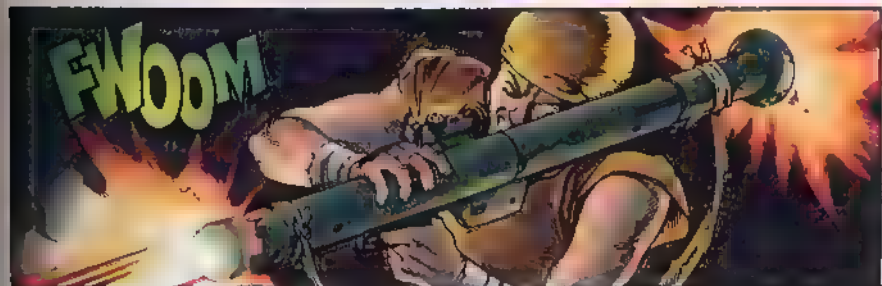
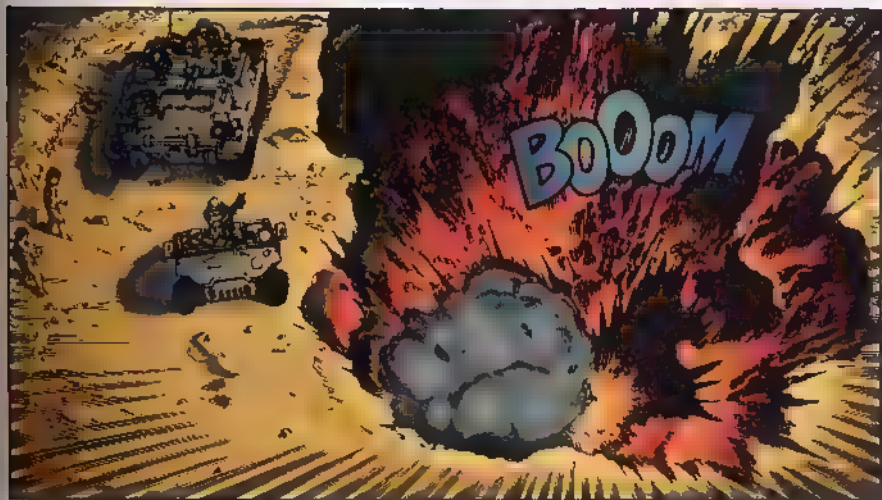
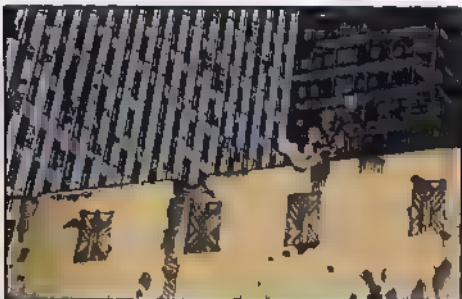


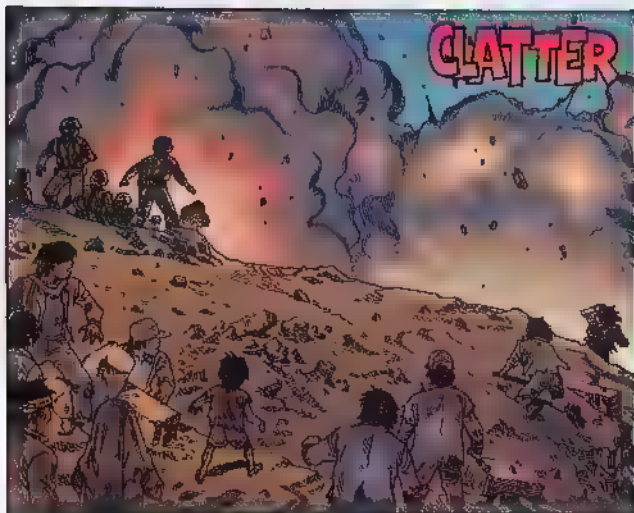
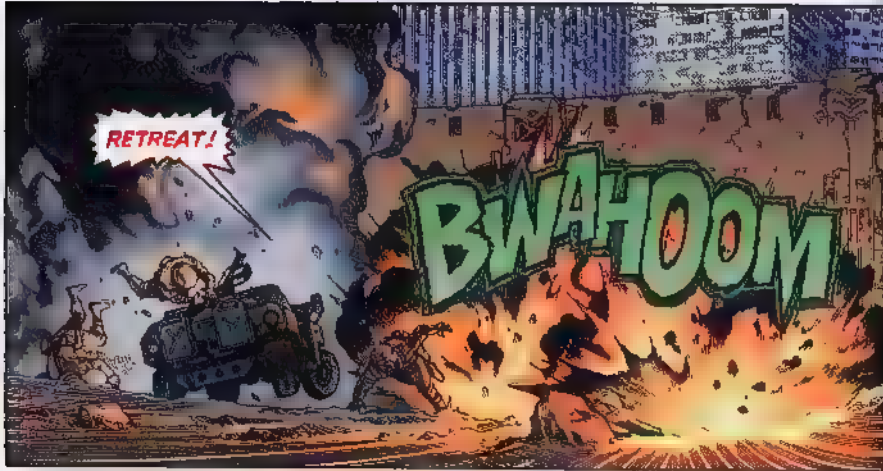


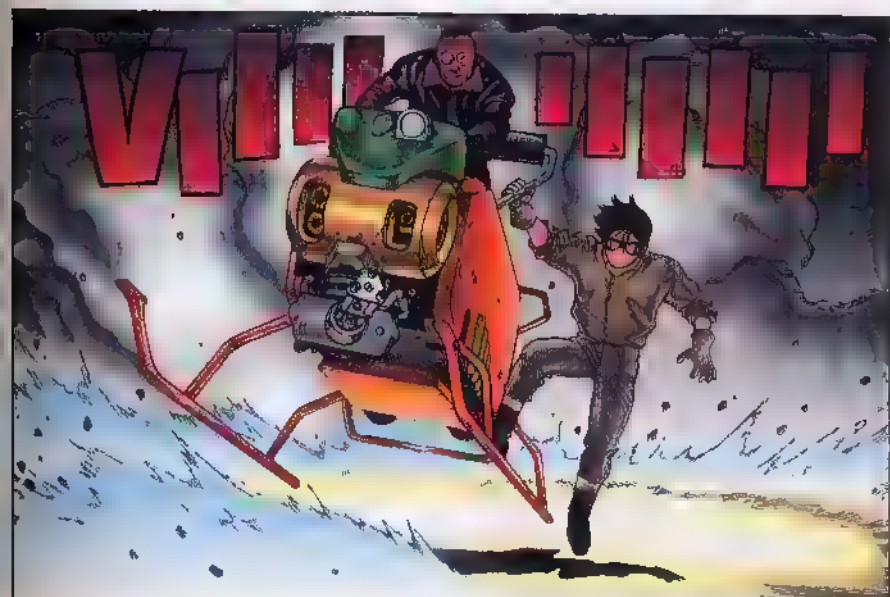
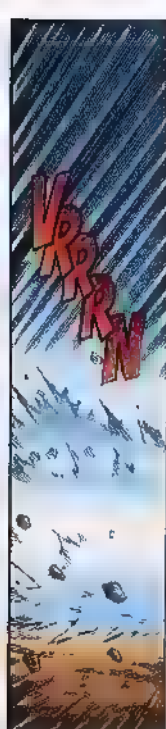


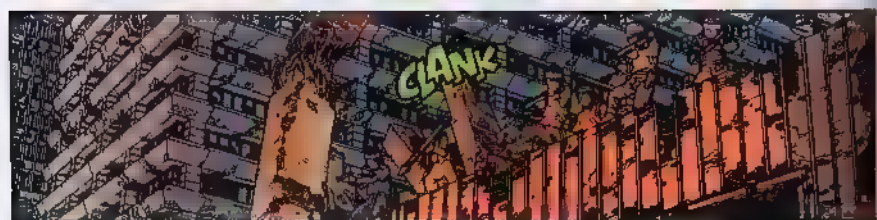

















WHO'S IN
CHARGE HERE? I
WANNA TALK TO
THE BOSS!




DON'T TELL ME MY LITTLE
FIGHT SHOW ACTUALLY
SCARED YOU SOLDIER
BOYS.



STOP TRYING TO PROVOKE
US! WE HAVEN'T COME
HERE TO FIGHT!



NO? THEN HOW COME
ALL THE GUNS AND
TANKS AND AMMO?



WE ARE AN
OFFICIAL
PEACEKEEPING
FORCE SENT
BY THE UNITED
NATIONS TO
HELP
REFUGEES
AND RESTORE
ORDER!

BULLSHIT!



PACK UP YOUR
WEAPONS...



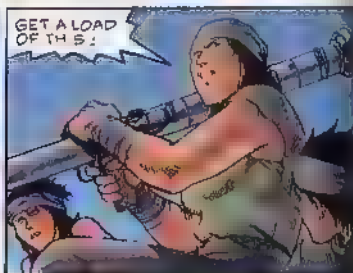
--AND GET THE
HELL OUT OF OUR
COUNTRY!

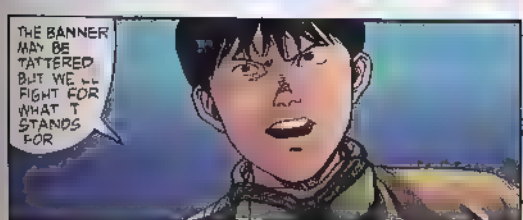
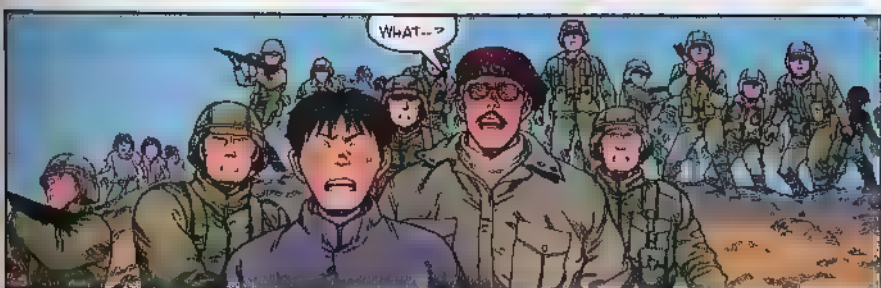
YEAH YOL
HEARD THE
MAN

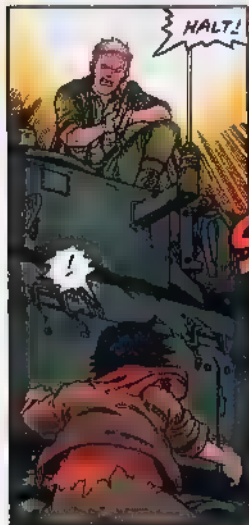


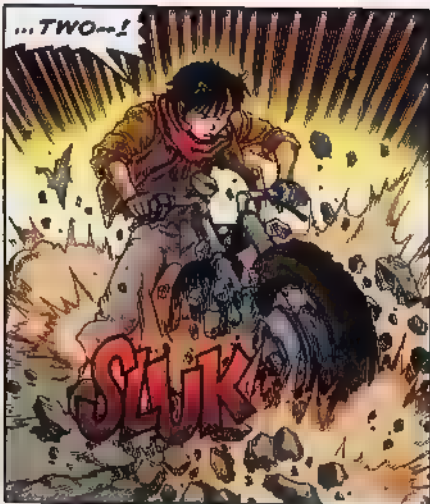
YOU WANT TO KNOW
WHAT WE'RE ALL
ABOUT?

GET A LOAD
OF THIS!

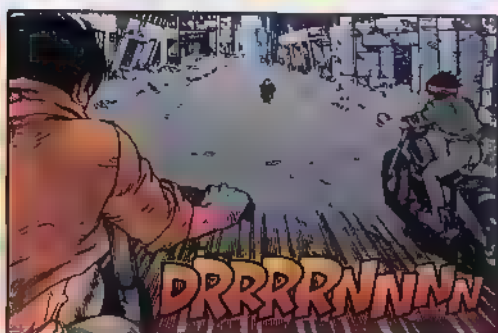


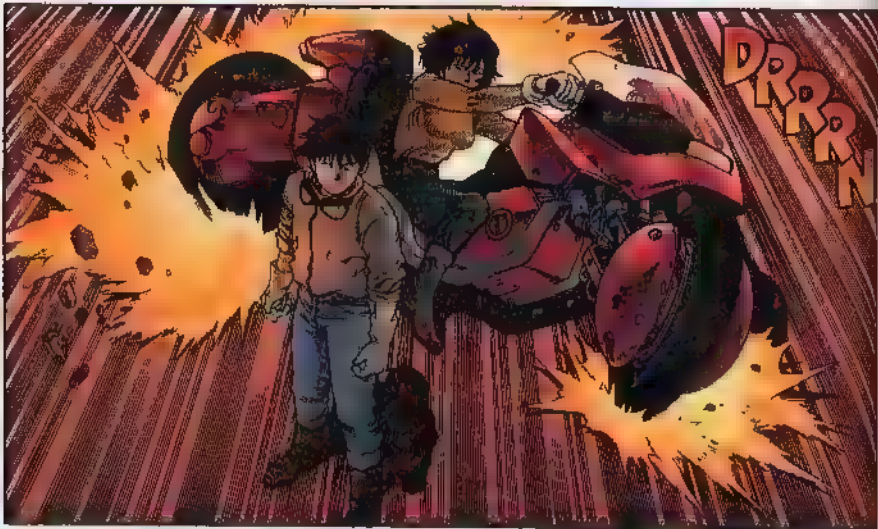


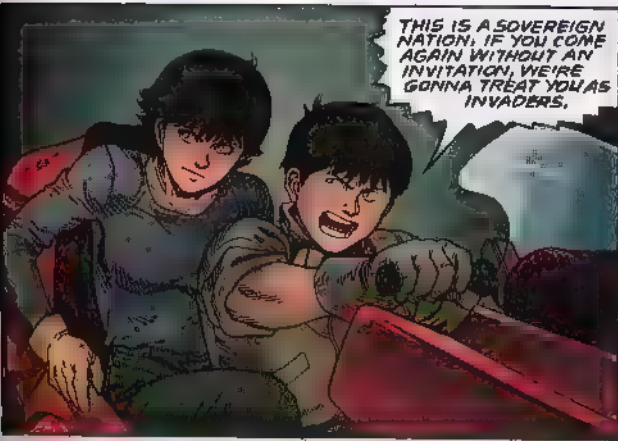


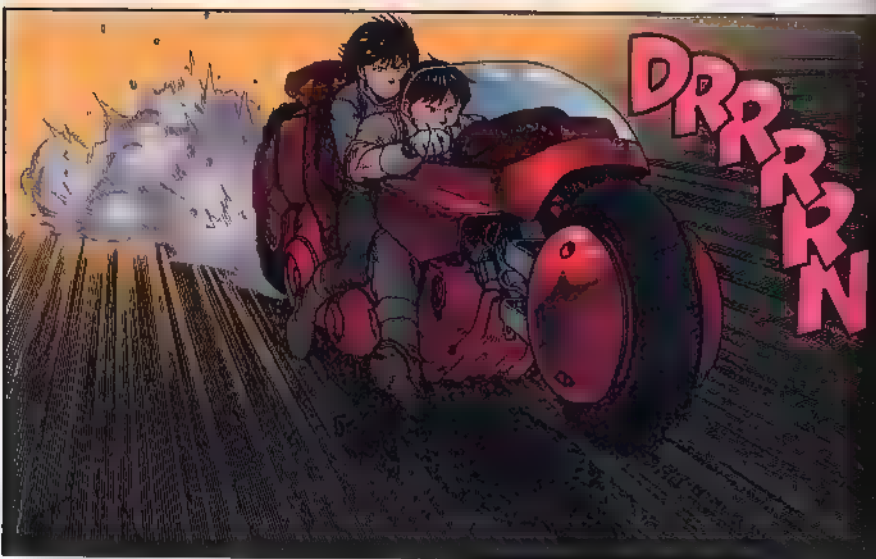
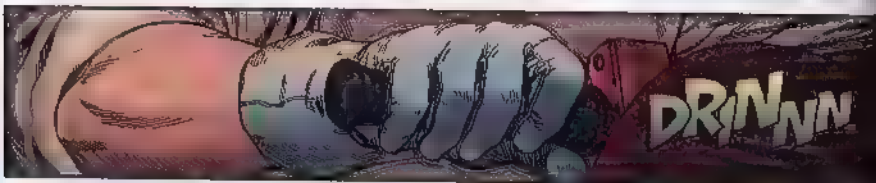
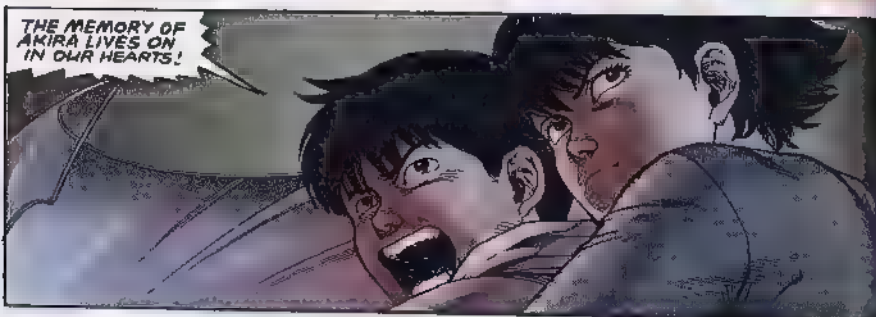


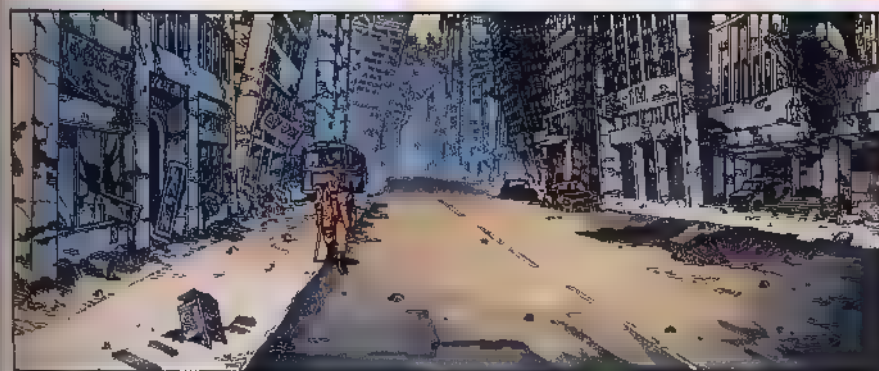














YOU'RE VERY SURE OF YOURSELVES, AREN'T YOU? AND YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN BEAT THEM?

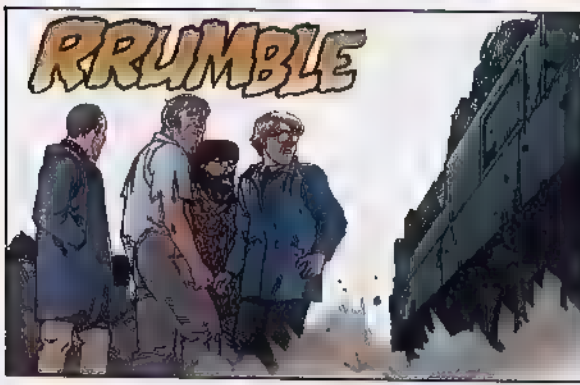


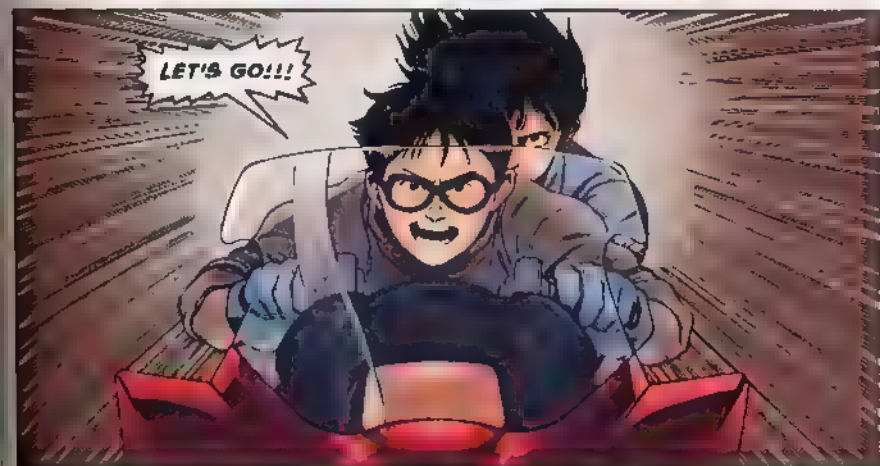
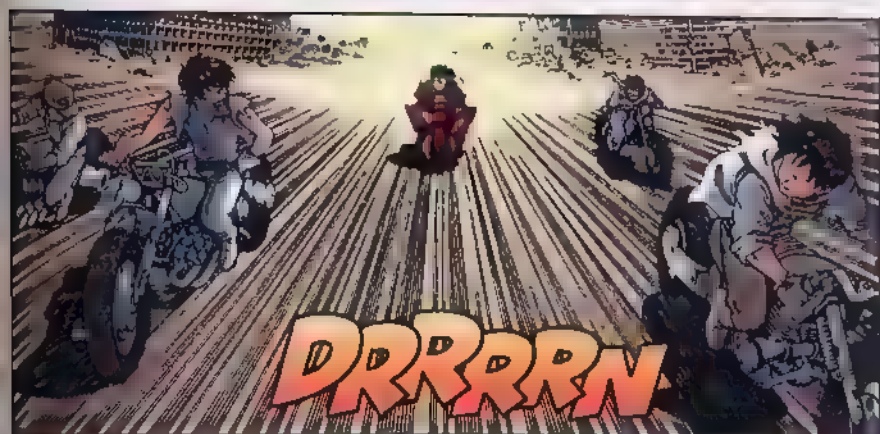
NO, THANK YOU THIS IS ONE LAME OLD WAR HORSE WHO'S PUT HIMSELF OUT TO PASTURE

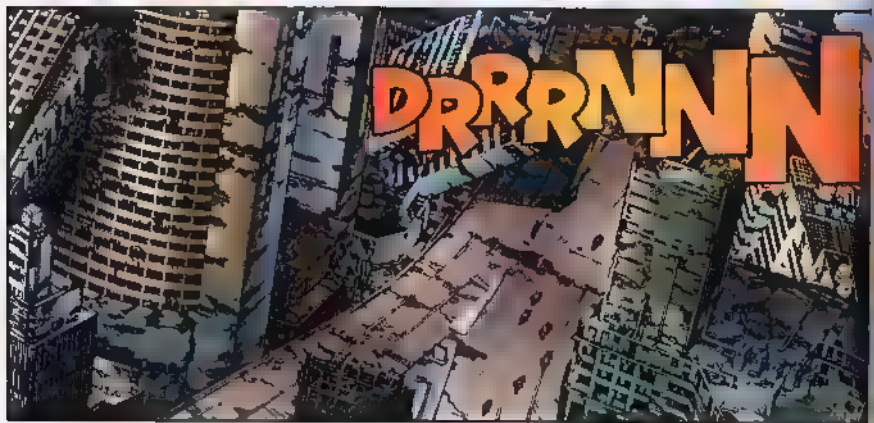
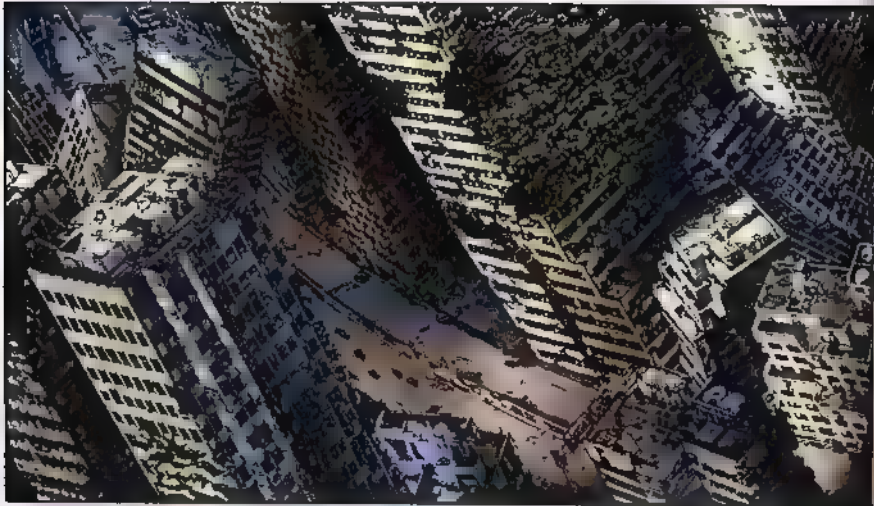


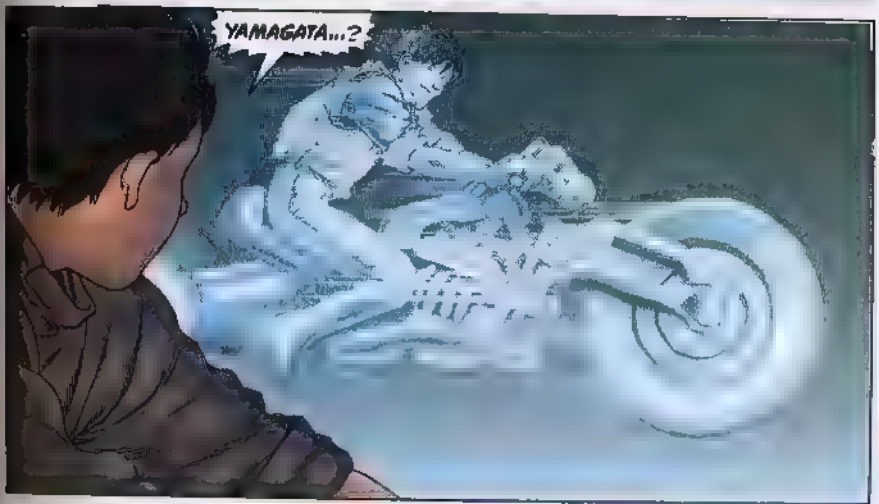
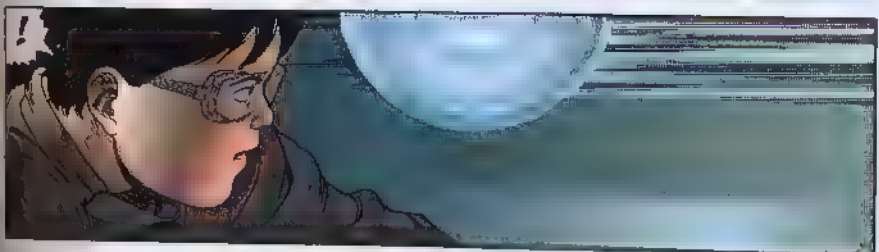
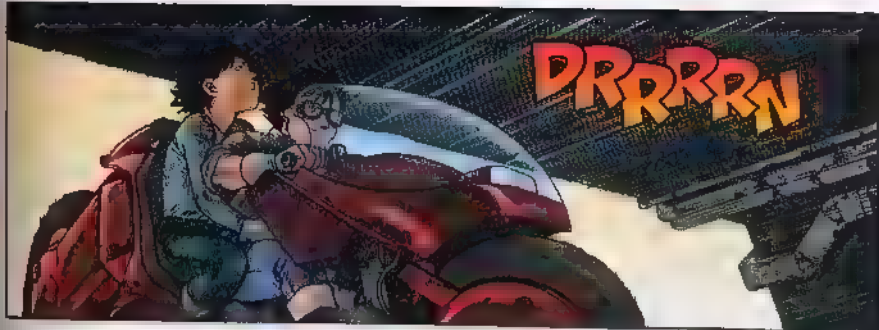
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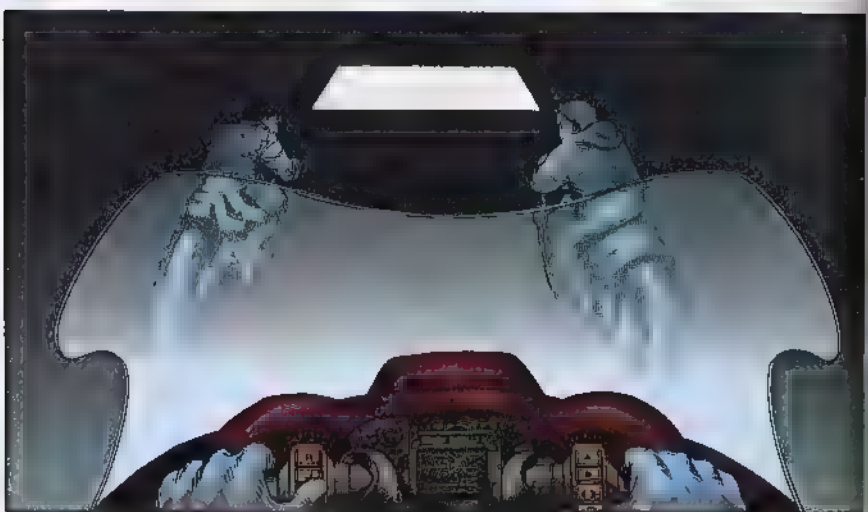
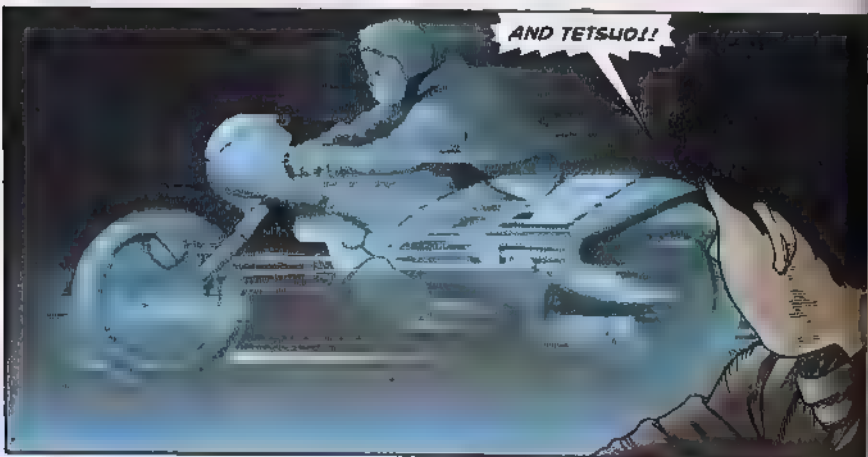
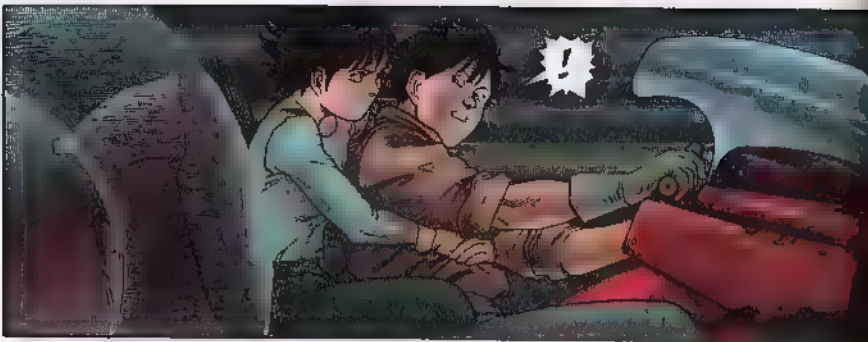


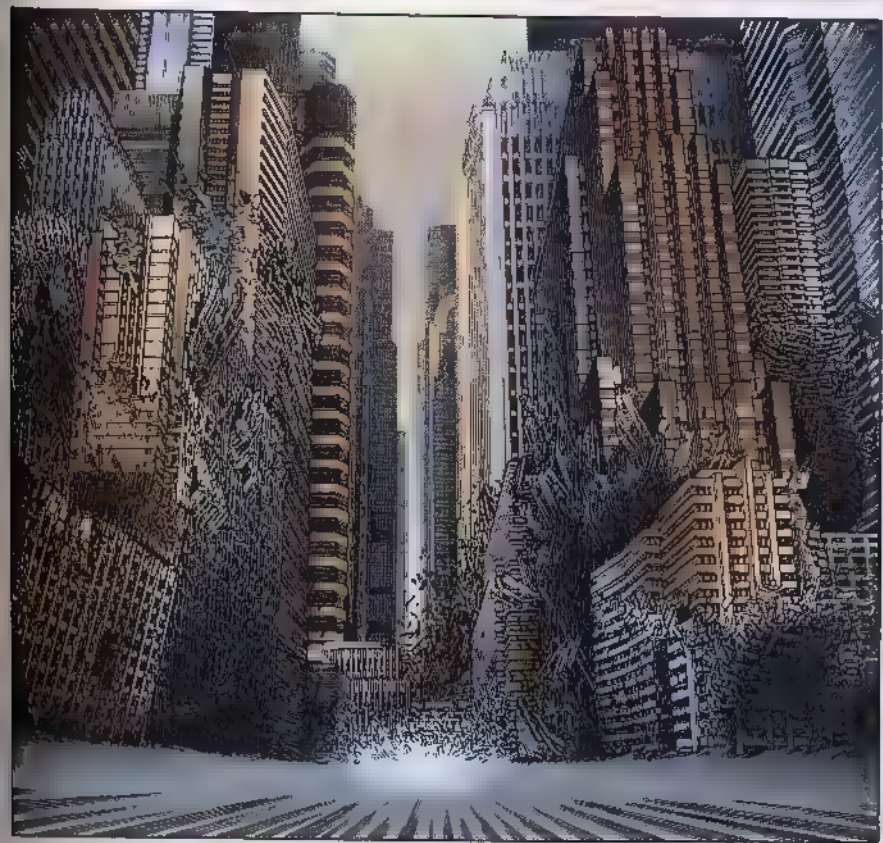
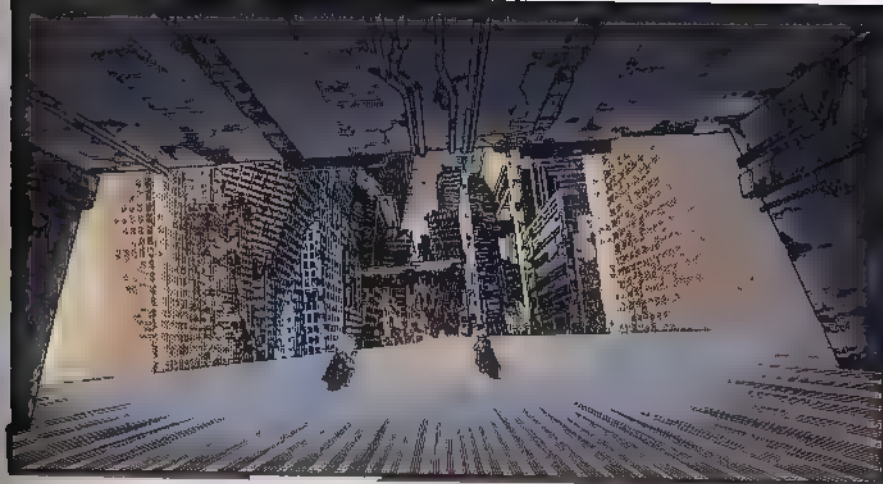


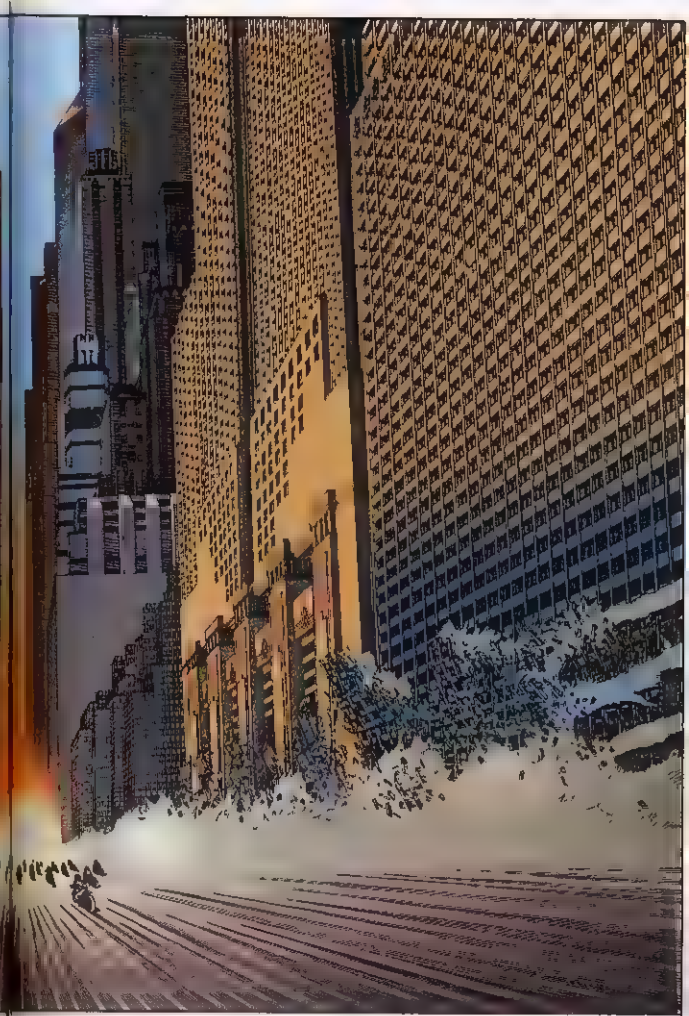


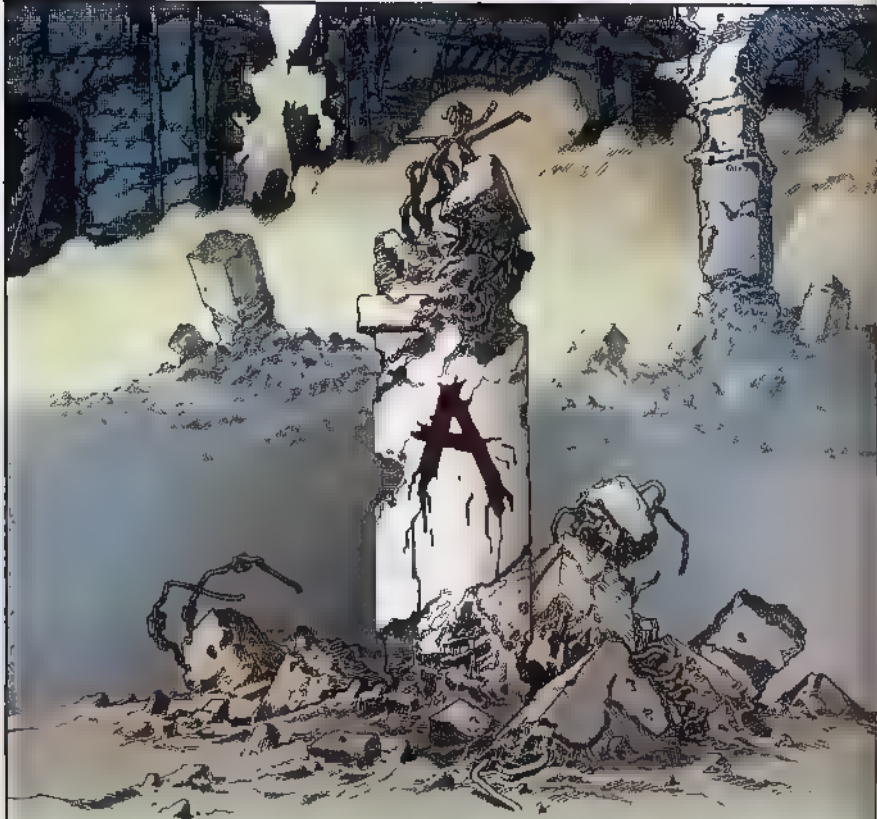












AKIRA

THE END



AKIRA

TRIBUTES

FEATURING WORKS BY

MARK CHIARELLO, MOEBJUS

JOE MADUREIRA, GEORGE PRATT

MIKE ALLRED, JOHN ROMITA

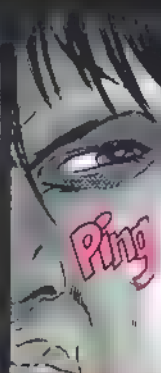
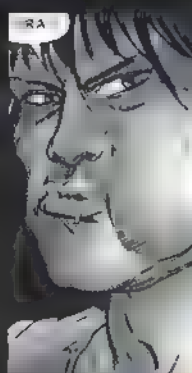
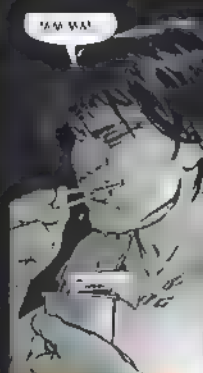
ALEX TOTH, KEVIN O'NEIL

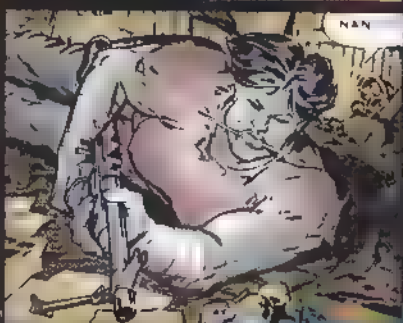
JOHN VAN FLEET

YAKITORI

TADAKIMASHU

LARRY HAMA
SCRIPT
BRET BLEVINS
ART
STEVE BUCCELATO
COLORS





TAKA TAKA TAKA

PAKA PAKA PAKA



PAU PAU PAU

THOOM

DA ME!
DA ME!
JAMU!!

CHANK



GAJONGGAJONG

KACHONG

GUTU

GUTU

PA MF.

PAU PAU PAU PAU



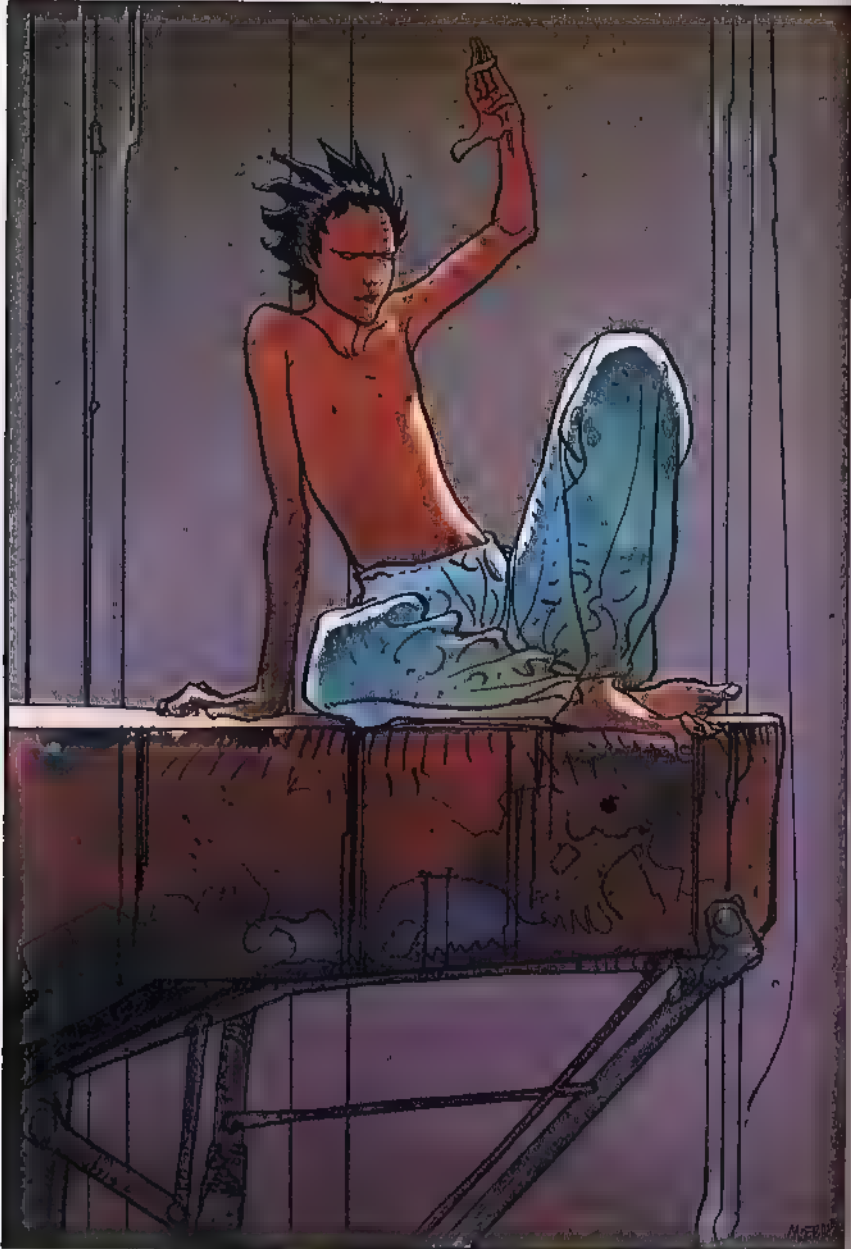


SKREEEEEEEE

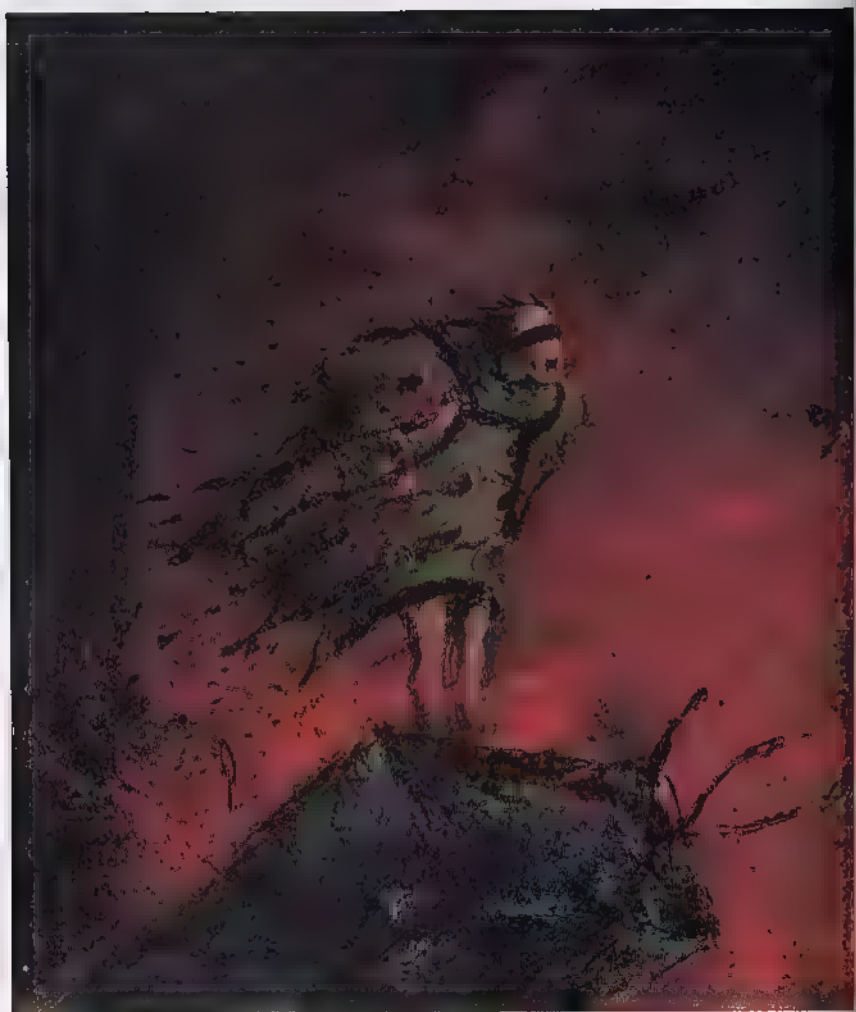
PATCHANGG

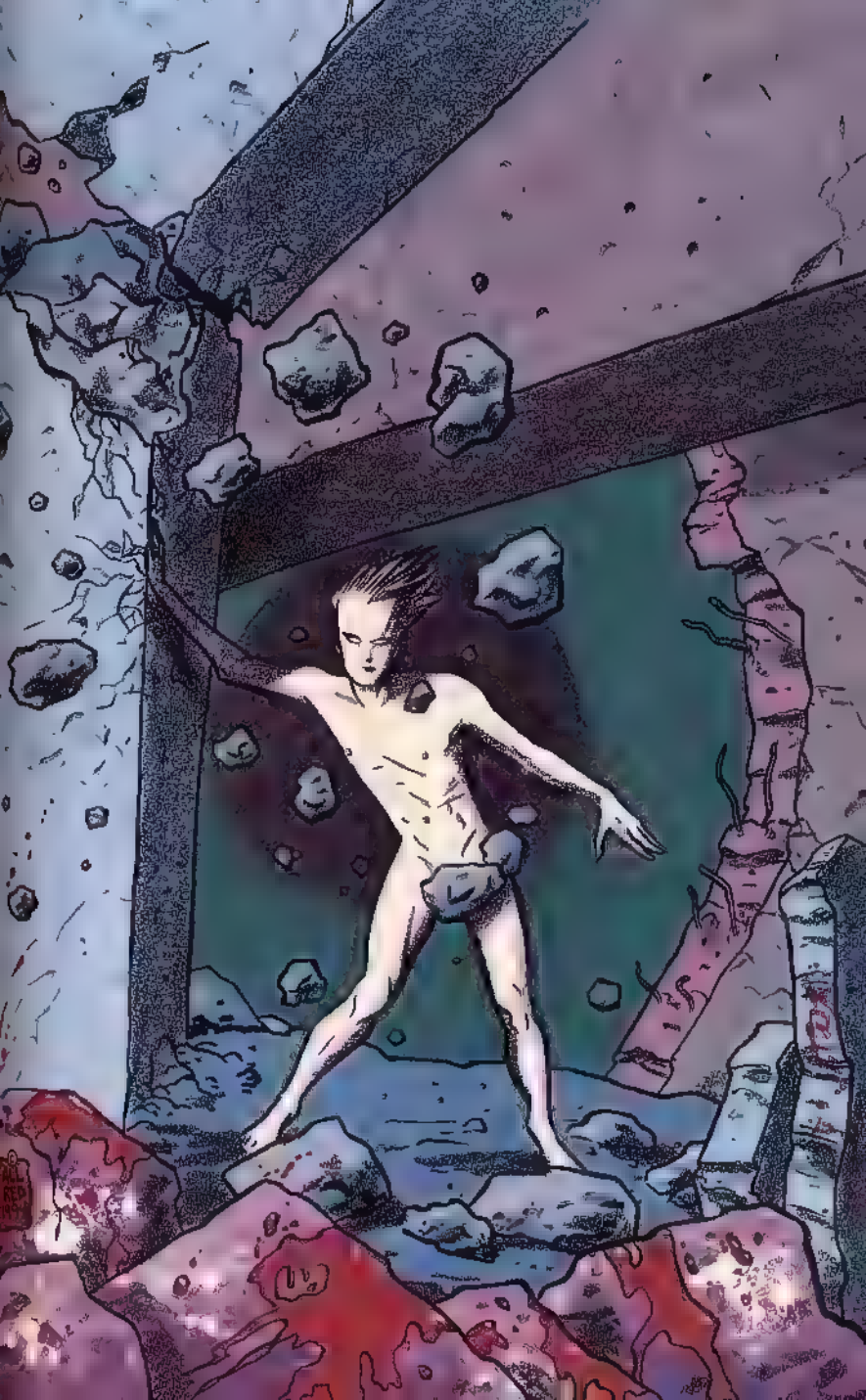
BADDOOM

GOCH SOSAMA











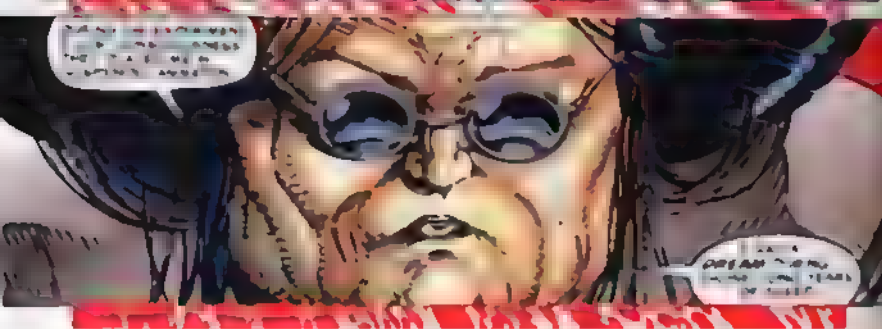
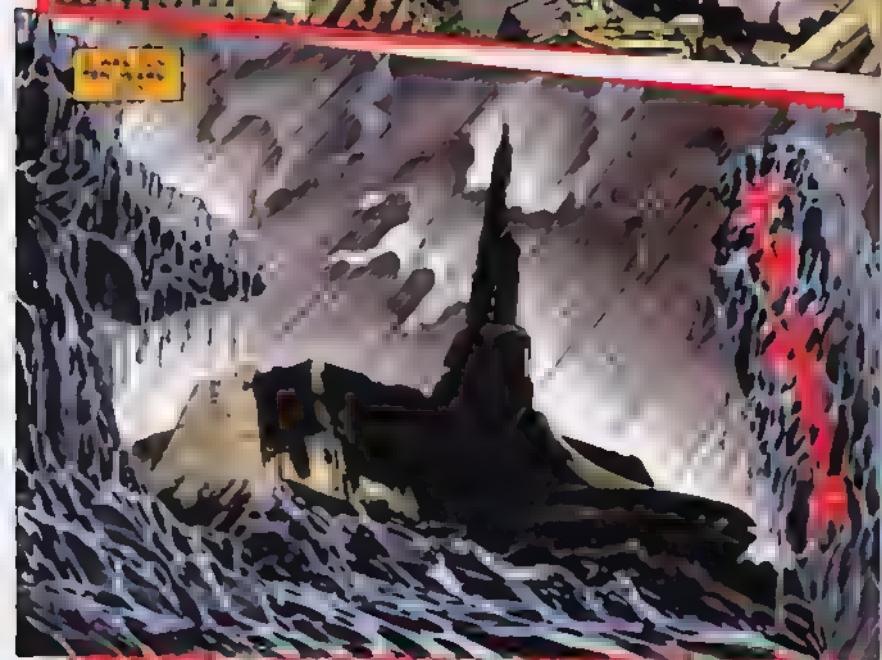
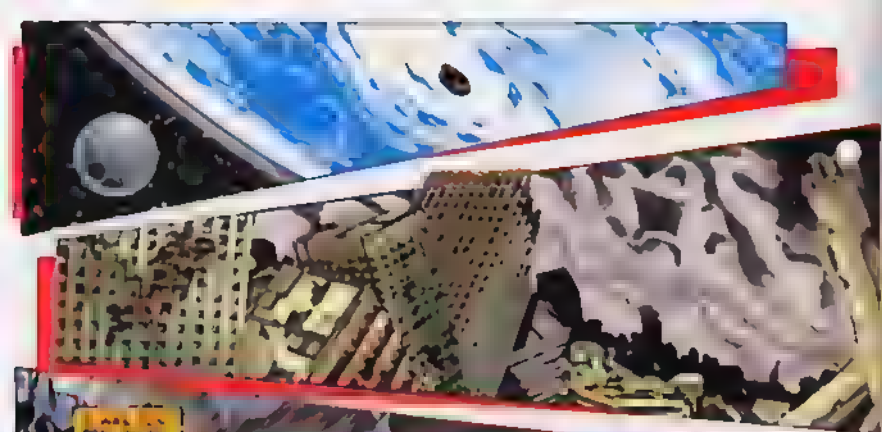



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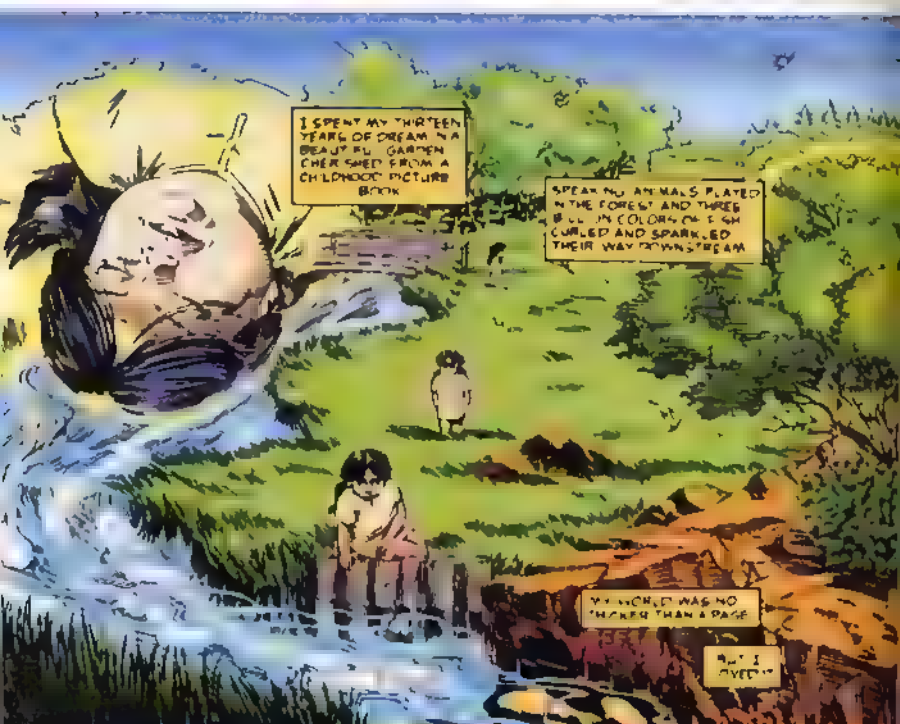
IT WAS COMPOSED
OF FRAGMENTARY
IMAGES

OF AKIRA
NEO TOKYO

OF TETSUO
THE FUTURE...

Candy Flower
NAPALM

STORY: WARREN ELLIS
ART: TERRY SHOEMAKER
COLOR: BRIAN BUCCOLATO



I SPENT MY THIRTEEN YEARS OF DREAM IN A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN HER SWED FROM A CHILDHOOD PICTURE BOOK

SPEAK NO ANIMALS PLATED IN THE FOREST AND THREE BULL IN COLOR OF FISH CURED AND SPARKLED THEIR WAY DOWNSTREAM

MY WORLD WAS NO THICKER THAN A PAGE

BUT I LOVED IT

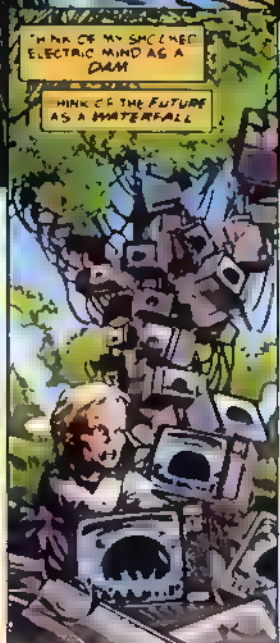


I THINK OF MY SHOCKED ELECTRIC MIND AS A DAM

I THINK OF THE FUTURE AS A WATERFALL

AT FIRST I IGNORED THE STAINS SEEPING INTO MY WATER GARDEN

THE TREES WERE JUST TREES I SAID AND MADE IT SO IN MY OWN HEAD



THERE WAS A HOLE IN MY HEAD

ONE MICHIGAN AND SIXTY YEARS DEEP

THE DAY WHEN
NOT BELIEVING
FOR THE RAIN
FALLING

CANDY RAIN STARTS
LUPID GREEN IN
SUSCATING WHITE

I AM BECOME BOYS.
MURDER THEM YES BUT
THE RAIN

THEY ARE EVEN
UNWRAP THE STUFF

THEY ARE IN
A NEW WORLD
OF STAYING
ON SURFACING
N A D

NEEDING


I NEVER LIKED CANDY
TOO EASY A PLEASURE.

CANDY GRINS ON EASY
FACES ARE NOT
UNDER EYES AND
NE SHEETS

I NEVER TRUSTED BOYS

ONE ATE
MORE THAN
THE OTHERS

HIS EYES LIT UP LIKE
FLAMING EYES AND
A RE A RE ARE TIGHT
AND DISTENDED




THE OTHER B.C.'S
COULDN'T HANDLE
THE CANDY

LET GO
SICK

THE FUTURE RAN IN THE BLOOD AND J...CES

BUT THE STRONG
BOY, THE CANDY
MADE HIM STRONGER

HE RAN INTO THE
FOREST, SEPARATED
FOREVER FROM THE
ORDINARY STREAM




THE BLOOD ON MY
PAPER GARDEN
DROVE ME OUT
OF MY MIND--
LITERALLY.

MY SUBCONSCIOUS
PROVED BEYOND
MY CRYOCHAMBER
LOOKING FOR A
SAFER LE TO
HIDE IN

INSTEAD
I FOUND
RELIGION

SHE'S
ONNN

SHE'S
WATCHING
US



NO DECENT OCCIDENTAL
GOD WAS IN THEM AND
IN MY HORROR NO
TOLERANT BUDDHA WAS
IN ME


FOR ANY W.H.D. HE
"CLEAN PAPER OR F...THY
TRUTH" TO MAKE SENSE
I NEEDED SOMETHING
ELSE.



I DREAMT FOR
ANSWERS

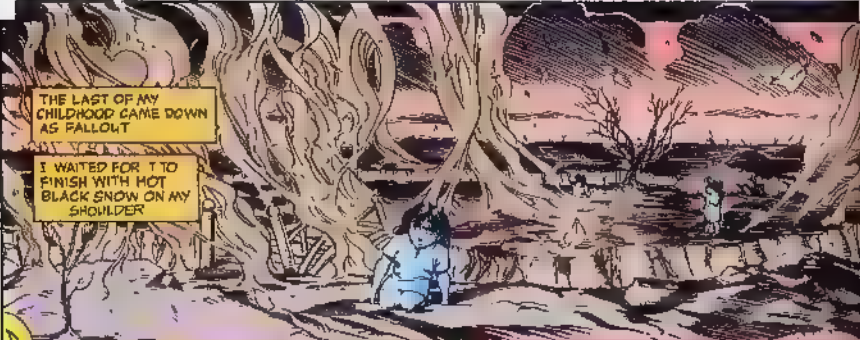
BUT MY TORTURE
GARDEN HELD ONLY
A QUESTION

THE RAIN
FED A
SEED.




THE FLOWER REEKED OF
NECROSIS--CRUSHED
BABIES AND BURST
DOGS.





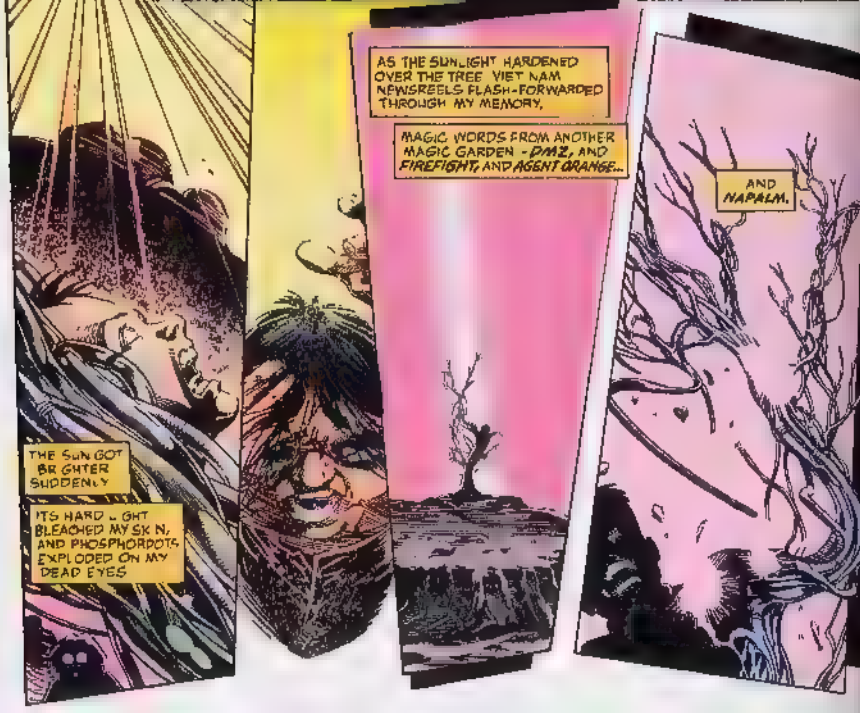
THE LAST OF MY
CHILDHOOD CAME DOWN
AS FALLOUT

I WAITED FOR IT TO
FINISH WITH HOT
BLACK SNOW ON MY
SHOULDER



ONLY ONE SINGLE
TREE IN MY BEAUTI-
FUL FOREST SUR-
VIVED THE STORM.

I COULDN'T
BRING MYSELF
TO TOUCH IT




AS THE SUNLIGHT HARDENED
OVER THE TREE VIET NAM
NEWSREELS FLASH-FORWARDED
THROUGH MY MEMORY.

MAGIC WORDS FROM ANOTHER
MAGIC GARDEN - PMZ, AND
FIREFIGHT, AND AGENT ORANGE...

AND
NAPALM.

THE SUN GOT
BRIGHTER
SUDDENLY

ITS HARD LIGHT
BLEACHED MY SKIN,
AND PHOSPHORDOTS
EXPLODED ON MY
DEAD EYES



PRECOGNITION IS NOT
LIKE HAVING A DOSSIER
ON THE FUTURE DROPPED
AT YOUR FEET

IT REQUIRES STRENGTH
AND FAITH, IT MUST BE
DECIPHERED

SO I STOOD IN MY COLD
GARDEN AND READ THE
FUTURE IN THE MOVE-
MENT OF BLOOD IN A R

THEN THIS ME

CANDY

FLOWER

NAPALM

THE GREAT FLOODS
ON ALL THE LAND

WILL TELL A BOY
THIS, IN YEARS TO
COME

NAPA WILL HAVE
TAKEN HIS ARM AND
LANDY WILL FLOW
IN THE YEARS

WE ARE ALL PART
OF THE SAME
THE SAME GREAT
STREAM

ALMA
NAPA'S
OF THE STREAM

THE GREAT
FLOODS
WILL TELL
US ULTIMATELY
THE SAME



KATSUHIRO OTOMO

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SATOSHI KON

MIROSHI HIRATA

AKIRA SAITO

Kodansha Ltd

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KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA



DIRECT EDITION

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I love um

I buy um

I preserve um



